THE PUBLIC LIBRARY, DAVENPORT, IOWA
ELIZABETH MARTIN, LIBRARIAN

March 28, 1951

Miss Elizabeth Hage, Librarian
Scott County Librarian
Eldridge, Iowa

Dear Miss Hage:

Miss Lydia Barrette of Mason City has written for the following information - she wants to know "the budget for Scott County library service and how much volunteer help they have? I will appreciate figures as soon as you can get them to me."

As I do not know the answers would you take time out to write Miss Barrette direct as soon as possible. I am writing her that I can only guess at the answers and am referring her to you for correct information.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Martin

EM:BS

Elizabeth Martin, Librarian

April 7, 1951

Miss Lydia M. Barrette, Librarian
Public Library
Mason City, Iowa

Dear Miss Barrette:

Miss Elizabeth Martin, librarian of the Davenport Public Library wrote me on March 28 asking that I give you information which you had requested regarding the budget of the Scott County Library. I'm sorry to have been so long in answering, but I've been out of the office all day, every day, since I received Miss Martin's letter. We've been without a driver for a month and I've had to be on the road myself.

I am enclosing a copy of the annual report for the year 1950. It will, I believe answer many of your questions. You will notice an item of $5000. in a sinking fund on the financial statement. We did this thinking we would begin to save money toward the expense of a new building. However, we have been told by the county attorney that we cannot use our money that way. We are taking it up with the attorney general, but do not have an answer on that point yet.

Regarding volunteer help I would say this. At present we have that type of help taking care of the two stations in the county which have been established. This year, however, we are spending $1000. on the stations. That is to be paid quarterly at the rate of $50. a quarter to the city councils. (We are in the process of establishing three more stations which will bring the total in the county to five. On each we will spend $200. a year.) The councils may spend that as they see fit, so long as it is for the library. Some will pay rent with it and use volunteer help. The two already established stations have been set up in the city halls of the two towns, so they are rent free. Those places will no doubt spend most of the money for paid help. I myself prefer this because it makes one person responsible to me for the running of the station. At present a number of women in the town take turns doing the duty, and that method tends toward confusion and difficulty in co-ordination between the main library and the stations. It has worked out rather well, I feel; but I think paid help will be even better. We have not yet established a rate of pay. The action to spend money for the stations was taken only recently at a board meeting.

We have a carryall in addition to the bookmobile. With the smaller truck, we make package deliveries to the schools in the county. We make the changes on alternate weeks with the bookmobile schedule, exchanging collections in the schools once every six weeks. During this first year of operation we have been able to have only about 1 book per pupil in the collections. We have only about 500 books at each station. As our collection grows, of course, the number of books in the circulating collections will increase.

Regarding the size of our collection we feel rather proud, for on April 1st, just one year after moving into our headquarters here in Eldridge, and beginning

the processing of the books we reached the 10,000 making Contrary to all ALA rules of standards for book collections, the majority of our collection is juvenile! But that's where we need the books, so that's where we're putting them!

Our budget for 1951 is $45,000. We are buying a new Gerstenslager bookmobile. We inherited our present one, which is a converted school bus, from Mrs. Spies' demonstration which took place in this county before the vote for tax support went through.

If I can be of any further assistance to you Miss Barrette, I shall be glad to try.

Yours very truly,

Elizabeth B. Hage
Librarian

enc.

The tax rate for the library is the 2 mill limit in most of the towns. It is considerably less than that on the strictly rural areas. It amounts to $3.25 per capita (1940 census figures) this year.